

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014 AT 3.05PM AT UPPER HUTT
COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 11 LOGAN STREET, UPPER HUTT**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Jim Cook, Simon Muckley, Andy Tannock, Andrew Morris, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson, Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Eric Neumann

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington, Hamish Carnachan

Licenceholders: Mark Flaws

NZ F&G Council Staff: Don Rood (Communications Manager)

3. Apologies:

Councillor Mark Grace

Staff: Corina Jordan

It was then moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Andrew Morris/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Public Participation

Chairman Taylor welcomed the licenceholders to the meeting and invited them to bring forward any issues to Council.

5. Conflicts of Interest

A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. No further updates were added to the register.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 14 October 2014:

After a brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 14 October 2014 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Strato Cotsilinis/Brad Johnson

Carried

7. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal confirmed that the Hutt Valley Angling Club had been consulted on a potential fish out pond at the Royal Wellington Golf Club, and they indicated that the proposal was supported in principle.

Mr Teal confirmed that a letter drafted to North Canterbury Fish & Game Council to confirm support for the *õFish In Schoolsö* programme. NC F&GC had supplied supporting material to assist with establishing the programme in the Wellington region.

8. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris gave a brief update of the NZ Fish & Game Council meeting held over two days on 21 and 23 November 2014 and the Governors meeting held on 22 November 2014.

Councillor Morris noted that David Klee (Auckland/Waikato region) and Jen Sheppard (PhD student) had presented a summary of the project to date - a video had been taken to be distributed by Mr Teal.

Councillor Morris had indicated that the NZ F&GC auditor had requested that the specific signing order and confirmations be strictly adhered to.

Councillor Morris noted that the NZ Council was undertaking a performance evaluation with the intention of sending information to regions to evaluate own performance.

Councillor Morris indicated that there were two legal fund applications considered:

- Auckland/Waikato region ó for Lake Waikare/Whangamarino Wetland resource consent review as part of the Lower Waikato Flood Control Scheme (\$35K);
- NZ Council ó Water quality parameter and limit setting (\$30K).

Councillor Morris also noted that the Fish & Game elections were less than a year away and that NZ Council had discussed encouraging voting, and standing for Council. Regions would be encouraged to highlight this in regional newsletters, and even if licenceholders were happy with the current situation that they needed to be encouraged to vote to indicate participation in the health of the system.

Chairman Taylor and Councillor Morris gave a brief overview of the GovernorsøMeeting held on 22 November 2014, with it agreed that it was more useful than the previous governorsømeeting held some years ago ó with no dissent on display. The focus of discussions was on co-ordination and potential creation of national policy and process to create this including

feedback, The risks and threats of continuing with a fragmented approach was highlighted. Discussion ensued on encouraging representation from a younger demographic, with not just participation but actually standing and supporting them as candidates for election.

Councillor Morris indicated that the NZF&GC CE and Chairman had met with the new Minister recently.

It was then moved

That the report from the Wellington F&G Appointee to NZ Council for the meeting of 21 and 23 November 2014, and the F&G Governors' Meeting held on 22 November 2014 be accepted

Richard Moore/Jim Cook

Carried

9. **Wairarapa Water Use Project Update and Pencarrow Lakes Hunter Access Update**

The Council agreed *to move into Public Excluded session (at 3.40 pm)*

Andrew Morris/Chris O'Meara

Carried

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely the agenda item:

Wairarapa Water Use Project Update

The withholding of information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by councillors or officers and to maintain legal professional privilege and potentially commercially sensitive information.

Pencarrow Lakes Hunter Access

The withholding of information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by councillors or officers and to maintain legal privilege and to protect the privacy of natural person(s).

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a)(II) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public

Wellington F&GC move out of committee (at 4.15pm) and that the public be invited to return to the meeting.

Martin Taylor/Jim Cook

Carried

The following resolutions resulted from in-committee discussions:

It was moved to

Continue with the advocacy approach and to undertake the sampling of water, and juvenile trout for the purposes of otolith microchemistry investigation in the Ruamahanga catchment, and amend the annual plan to include this as a priority and expenditure of up to \$10,000 in external costs.

Andrew Morris/Richard Moore

Carried

10. **Recommendations for the 2015 Game Season Conditions**

Mallard Grey Duck ó Mr Teal gave an overview of scenarios of different season length and bag limits using a predictive model ó with an additional two week season (8 week total) with a restrictive limit of two birds was considered as an option beyond the regulation setting policy.

Councillor Moore questioned whether the extended season but restrictive limit would be utilized by hunters. Councillor Tannock noted that some hunters had communicated to him that the value of two mallards in a composite bag would be of value (shoveler, paradise shelduck, swan).

It was moved that

A six bird limit and six week season for mallard and grey duck for the 2015 season

Andrew Morris/Strato Cotsilinis

Carried

Against Chris O'Meara

Councillor Tannock commented that the duckling numbers had received a boost at the end of the breeding season which provided some optimism for numbers in the population.

Other Restricted Conditions Considered:

Councillor Morris introduced the topic of removal of exemption on feeding ó with the concept of potentially stopping feeding two weeks prior to the start of the season. Councillor Cook noted that the enforcement issues would be exceedingly difficult. Councillor Tannock considered that before the season so many were feeding out that the effect of increasing harvest at a site would be nullified, but could see the logic of restricting feeding out during the season as the intensity of feeding decreased. He noted that feeding out can provide food during droughts to maintain duck condition, but the option of ceasing feeding during the season could be considered.

After further discussion it was moved

That feeding be banned from one week prior to the start of the season

Andrew Morris/Chris O'Meara

Defeated

Pinning Semi-auto (Multi Shot) shotguns

Councillor Tannock brought to the attention of councillors that Hawkeø Bay region had banned magazine extensions, and a voluntary approach to 3 shot capacity limit.

Councillor Neumann considered it was an imposition on those hunters with 5 shot shot guns.

Councillor Cotsilinis questioned how many used magazine extensions, with it confirmed that these were mainly used for hunting Canada geese when large flocks landed in decoys.

Councillor Muckley considered that Council should be considering the expectation of hunters and messaging.

It was moved

That magazine extensions for shotguns for waterfowl hunting not be allowed

Strato Cotsilinis/Jim Cook

Carried

Recorded as voting against motion Chris OøMeara/Eric Newman/Simon Muckley

It was further noted that when presenting further publicity relating to this restriction that it was not considered overly restrictive to most hunters and was consistent with the Hawkeø Bay proposal.

Paradise Shelduck

It was noted that the trend counts would be conducted in January and season conditions would be confirmed in February.

Shoveler

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for shoveler remain the same as the 2014 game season

Andrew Morris/Jim Cook

Carried

Pukeko

After discussion of submissions it was moved

The season conditions for pukeko remain the same as the 2014 game season

Andrew Morris/Brad Johnson

Carried

It was noted that a reply to submitters would highlight monitoring found in the wider region, increased intensity of monitoring in the Rangitikei area would be considered, and the effects of habitat change.

Black Swan

It was noted that the trend counts would be conducted in January and season conditions would be confirmed in February ó with the regulation setting policy providing guidance on appropriate limits.

Bobwhite Quail -

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for bobwhite quail remain the same as the 2014 game season

Richard Moore/Andy Tannock

Carried

Pheasant -

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for pheasant remain the same as the 2014 game season

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

After discussion it was moved that

All upland game hunting would start on the first Saturday in May

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

Red-Legged Partridge

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for red-legged partridge remain the same as the 2014 game season

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

California Quail

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for California quail remain the same as the 2014 game season

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

11. **Draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan**
 After discussion it was moved to
Receive the current draft of the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan
Jim Cook/Andrew Morris
 Carried
12. **Application for Upland Game Property with Special Conditions – Waituna**
 After discussion and clarification it was moved that
The draft agreement for operation of upland game property be confirmed and that signing authority be given to the regional manager on behalf of Council
Andy Tannock/Brad Johnson
 Carried
13. **Application for Duckling Breeding, Rearing and Release**
 Mr Teal outlined the application by Mr McKenzie to rear ducklings for release and the expectations that they hoped to achieve.
- Councillor Morris noted accounts of hunters rearing ducklings and releasing them on their ponds which acted as de facto live decoys, and the total harvest achieved was relatively high as a result.
- Councillor Cook noted that it was still illegal to sell ducklings so the issues of procurement and distribution needed to be clarified to those involved. It was also highlighted that conditions of release should require that they not be pinioned. It was also likely that a permit from DoC would be required to hold and release birds.
- After further discussion it was moved that
Wellington F&G Council was not opposed to the release of ducks raised from ducklings in small numbers (<100). A summary of the regulations for sale of game birds would be provided to anyone who was intending to rear and release mallard ducks. A condition of release would also include non-pinioning of the birds
Brad Johnson/Strato Cotsilinis
 Carried
14. **Junior Participation Update - Fish in Schools**
 Mr Carnachan indicated that he had received a very positive response to the concept and that this would proceed next year when ova are available. Mr Carnachan was commended for achieving the outcomes.

After discussion it was moved that

The report from Mr Carnachan on the Fish in Schools Programme be received

Richard Moore/Strato Cotsilinis

Carried

15. Balloting of Hunting Stands

Councillor Morris indicated a potential conflict of interest being a current standholder.

Considerable discussion on the current range of options and the pros and cons of each. Councillor Cotsilinis considered a variation in approach may be appropriate depending on the sites.

Councillor Tannock supported the longer term arrangements and the sense of community and tradition that generated, and didn't consider existing long term arrangements were creating any issues.

Councillor Johnson considered that longer term tenures could potentially be grandfathered to go to a shorter 10 year period. He also considered that unless effort was made to maintain the site and stand then it should be relinquished. The succession of stands within a hunting party also needed to be clarified and reiterated to current standholders. He considered a 5-10 year tenure for new ballots was an appropriate length of time to engender effort to maintain and improve.

Councillor Tannock reiterated that it was a privilege of hunters and that the requirements to keep any stands should include:

- Buying a licence,
- Occupying opening weekend or delegating;
- Maintenance of site and stand;
- Intention to register by pegging day

It was considered that it was not hard to find a vacant stand after opening weekend even during Queens Birthday weekend but there could be a perceived barrier to hunters travelling to the remote sites without any guarantee of daily tenure.

Chairman Taylor stated that Council had to balance the benefits of long term tenure with the opportunity to go there for itinerant hunters. Councillor Muckley considered that balloted areas could be opened up more to provide for more hunter opportunity. He considered that any perceived issues were related to educating hunters on expectations and managing people.

Other variants of balloting tenure were discussed included annual ballots resulting in a lack of commitment, and long term ballots being potentially shared later in the season

After further discussion it was moved that

*For new ballots a 3 year tenure be confirmed with a right of renewal of
3 years with evidence of active management and maintenance of site*

Strato Cotsilinis/Chris O'Meara

Carried

It was confirmed that all normal conditions would also apply.

16. Lake Wairarapa Update

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the Wairarapa Moana Governance group confirming the current structure moving forward which will probably have relevance post Treaty Settlement.

Mr Teal outlined the fish removal project at Bartonø Lagoon, and noted that the current results were as expected that perch numbers would bounce back after winter. The robustness of the science behind this project needed to be reassessed and the reporting needed to be critiqued.

The maimai inventory and pond management for Lake Wairarapa wetlands was intended to be completed over the summer work period, after which the Lake Wairarapa Management Committee of Strato Cotsilinis, Andy Tannock, and Andrew Morris would potentially meet to discuss communication of expectations to hunters.

Mr Teal confirmed that an extensive willow spray programme was planned for the JK Donald and Boggy Pond wetland areas in end December/early January.

17. Mallard Research Project Update

Initial results from the researchers in the Waikato would be written up for internal and public communications by the end of February. There were some interesting potential research findings including the length till fledgling of hybrid mallard/grey being longer.

Mr Teal also expressed concern about ensuring research protocols were consistent between Waikato and Southland study sites ó with some issues in project management and accountability being worked through.

Councillor Tannock considered that the results of the feedback from the email survey of Wellington hunters that there is not great knowledge of the results of the mallard research project(s) and therefore support for them by hunters is muted.

Councillor Johnson requested that the video of the presentation to NZ Council should be posted on-line if possible to increase transparency and support.

Councillor Tannock expressed concerns on continued future funding and how external funds from reserves or component of the research fund could guarantee funding moving forward. He also considered contributions by all regions in terms of staff time could be beneficial in terms of spreading the load of regions where the study sites are based and cross pollination of staff ideas and skills.

18. Management Report 1 October – 30 November 2014

Councillor Morris noted the Carterton WWTP works had commenced on land disposal options for treated wastewater. Mr Carnachan noted that it should stop being pumped directly into the Mangaterere River.

It was moved that the

Management Report for 1 October to 30 November 2014 be received and accepted

Simon Muckley/Strato Cotsilinis

Carried

19. Fish Licence Sales Report

After brief discussion it was moved to

Receive the fishing licence sales report to 28 November 2014

Jim Cook/Andrew Morris

Carried

20. Expenditure Report

After brief discussion it was moved that

The expenditure reports 1 July to 31 August 2014, and 1 Sept to 31 October 2014, and the financial transactions for September and October 2014 be accepted

Strato Cotsilinis/Simon Muckley

Carried

Mr Teal noted that two vehicles were up for replacement as per normal rotation, and that provision had been made for this contingency.

Mr Teal also noted that the purchase of a GPS unit to replace an ageing unit was anticipated in the next two months.

21. Correspondence

After brief discussion it was moved that

Correspondence and media overview be received

Jim Cook/Andrew Morris

Carried

22. **General Business**

Mr Teal noted that DoC had informed Fish & Game that the trout ban of imported trout flesh needed to be renewed ó possibly a fait accompli.

New Communications Manager for NZ Council Don Rood addressed Council.

Topics covered included:

- Public Awareness
- Getting people to know what we are doing
- Engaging with 50% of populations ó women for fishing
- Youth fish programme
- Family licence sales up in North Canterbury region- may be correlated to Fish in Schools programme
- Nationwide radio advert for family licence anticipated in December/January period with Radio Live, encouraging all to have a go.

Some of the photos were distributed of the Duddings Lake kids fishing day and success noted . Council thanked the efforts of the Manawatu Anglers Club and in particular the efforts of staff (Steve Pilkington, Stacy Tahere, Hamish Carnachan) in helping organise this event.

Chris O'Meara requested that a Take A Mate hunting promotion that is used in the Auckland/Waikato region be considered for Wellington. Mr Teal to summarise the success of the Auckland/Waikato programme in context of potential benefits or costs to Wellington region

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.00pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Masterton Cosmopolitan Club, Queens Street, Masterton Tuesday 17 February 2015 at 3.00pm.

Chairman_____

Date_____

